RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

September, 1999

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

DIRECTOR OF CITY PLANNING TO DISCUSS PALISADE AVENUE REVITALIZATION

Robert Cotter, Jersey City Planning Director will be the guest speaker at our September meeting. He will discuss the current status of this long awaited and sorely overdue project to upgrade our community.

Since RNA announced the City's plans to revitalize Palisade Avenue, many residents and local businesspeople have expressed concerns about the scale and scope of the project. Will there be high-rise development? What will happen to the existing residential buildings? What type of financial support will be available to improve our local businesses? Will there be an effort to stimulate new business into our community? Will businesses have to relocate? How much money is being commited to this project? What are the boundaries of the plan? Will there be public meetings to allow input from the residents and business owners?

FINAL VOTE ON PERMIT PARKING

At the July 13th and August 10th meetings, RNA conducted a public discussion and two straw votes concerning several new parking ideas for our community: permit parking, metered parking on Palisade Avenue and demarcated parking spaces. The need for this discussion is the continuous loss of residential parking due to the parking of out-of-town vehicles on our streets. A Parking Authority survey revealed that over one-third of the parked vehicles on our streets are from outside Jersey City.

RNA has scheduled three meetings - with two straw votes in July and August and a final vote in September - to allow all citizens a chance to voice their opinions. The results of the final vote will be forwarded to our elected officials for implementation.

Under permit parking, a local resident would purchase a $5.00 annual permit allowing them unlimited parking in their community. (A local worker would pay $50.00 for a permit.) All other vehicles would be limited to several hours a day - usually two (2) hours - after which they would be subject to a parking summons.

The other idea is to install metered parking along certain areas of Palisade Avenue to help local business by giving their customers access to parking adjacent to the store.

The results of the **JULY STRAW VOTE** were as follows:

a) **Permit Parking:** 21 in favor, 1 against and 3 abstentions;
b) **Four (4) hour Non-residential parking:** 20 in favor and 5 against;
c) **Hours Enforced - 7 AM to 7 PM:** 19 in favor and 6 against.
d) **Parking Meters on Palisade Avenue:** 10 in favor, 10 against and 6 abstentions; and
e) **Demarcated Parking Spaces:** 2 in favor, 10 against and 4 abstentions.

In August, there was a discussion about limiting the number of hours that non-residents could park, and the days and hours that the permit parking would be enforced by the City.

The results of the **AUGUST STRAW VOTE** were as follows:

a) **Permit Parking:** 31 in favor, 4 against and 1 abstentions;
b) **Four (4) hours Non-residential parking** : 11 in favor, 19 against and 1 abstention;
c) **Two (2) hours Non-residential parking:** 21 in favor and 10 against;
d) **Hours Enforced - 7 AM to 7 PM:** 14 in favor and 17 against;
e) **Hours Enforced - 9 AM to 9 PM:** 15 in favor and 12 against.
f) **Days Enforced - Monday to Saturday:**16 in favor, 17 against and 5 abstentions;
g) **Days Enforced - Monday to Friday:** 27 in favor, 0 against and 5 abstentions;
h) **Parking Meters on Palisade Avenue between Franklin and Ferry Streets only:** 17 in favor, 16 against and 3 abstentions; and
i) **Demarcated Parking Spaces:** 4 in favor, 28 against and 5 abstentions.

Due to the importance of these two issues, RNA is extending an invitation to all residents and business owners to attend this meeting to voice their opinions.

The City of Jersey City
Department of Housing, Economic Development and Commerce
Division of Community Development
invites the public to a
Public Hearing
to present your views on
HOW THE CITY SHOULD SPEND YOUR FEDERAL HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT DOLLARS
(The "Consolidated Plan")

Location: City Hall, Council Chambers
280 Grove Street
Wednesday, September 15, 1999, 7:00 PM

HARBOR VIEW HOLIDAY PARTY

RNA will hold is annual holiday party for the residents of the Harbor View Health Care Facility on **Friday, November 19th at 1:30 PM.** It is an afternoon of fun, music, food and drink - with gifts for all the residents. We are hoping for special guest appearances by Santa Claus and his friend Blinky the Clown.

This year we are asking for donations of men's or ladie's handkerchiefs, warm socks or small unbreakable items, such as picture frames or bric-a-brac. We are also looking for gifts of small stuffed animals or rag dolls. These items will be packaged as gifts for the residents. All donations will be accepted at the next two RNA meetings in September and October.

We need volunteers to serve, bake or donate dietetic delicacies. Baked goods should be brought to the Facility located at the corner of Franklin and Ogden on the day of the party. If you are baking, please use disposable pans or trays.

As usual, we are also planning live musical entertainment for our seniors. However, the most appreciative gift is to spend time talking and listening to these marvelous people. It does wonders to just see their eyes light up when someone spends some quality time with them. They also love to have young children visit and talk to them. Therefore, we need you to come and participate in this marvelous event. You will be rewarded as you see the smiles on their faces.

If interested please call **Jack at 653-69-16** or speak to Maria, Jack or Valerie at the September meeting. This is RNA's way of thanking these seniors for allowing us to use their home for our monthly meetings.

Jack Rea

FALL ACTIVITIES

RNA is also looking for volunteers to help organize its other annual fall and winter activities. We need people to plan our **Fall Clean-up, Food and Toy Drive, Christmas Caroling,** and **RNA's Holiday Party** and any other activity that is approved.

If interested, speak to Maria or Kevin at the next meeting.

A Suggestion for the Monthly Meetings

I have been getting a lot of feedback as I now sit in our monthly meetings. There was a time when our meetings would hold your interest. Now our speakers take up the entire meeting. I remember when we limited our speakers to a time frame - unfortunately this no longer holds. By the time the last speaker is up, the membership starts to drop off and leave.

I attend other meetings with guest speakers and the chairperson would limit the time they could speak with open discussion and questions.

Jack Rea

MEETING MINUTES: SUMMER, 1999

[The following is a summary of the three meetings RNA held during the months of June, July and August.]

June 8, 1999

Neighborhood Improvement District (NID) Supervisor John Matteo, described the duties of the NID manager who is responsible for problems with trash, building violations and other quality of life issues. If the manager cannot handle the problem, then he as the supervisor steps in and carries the problem to the full extent of their jurisdiction.

Mr. Matteo was asked by RNA to coordinate the use of sprinklers on our local fire hydrants this summer. RNA suggested that the sprinklers should be limited to the hydrants in both our local Parks - where a park attendant can schedule their use and ensure the safety of children in the street.

Mr. Matteo introduced **Yavelier Rodriquez, the NID manager for North 6**, which encompasses Ogden and Palisade Avenues from Cuneo Place to Griffith St. He discussed the problems in his area that he was working on. A resident complained about the dumping of debris and the overgrown weeds in the lot on the corner of Palisade and Griffith. The telephone number for North 6 is **547-4974, ext. 8015**. [In August, an NID official confirmed that Mr. Rodriquez is no longer the North 6 Mgr. because he accepted a City buy-out. A new manager will be named within the next month.]

Laura Petersen, the NID manager of North 7, which encompasses Ogden and Palisade Avenues from Griffith to Congress Streets, spoke about the use of the basketball courts in Riverview-Fisk Park after 10 PM and stated that the police have to be called for this complaint. She said that sanitation summons had been issued to 450 and 452 Palisade Avenue. She also informed the group that bench warrants had been issued for the managers of 202-204 Ogden Avenue because of their refusal to remove the garbage container on the corner of Ogden and Franklin.

RNA asked for the managers to be on duty alternate weekends to issue summons to violators who put their garbage out on the street during the weekend.

A complaint was made that vehicles were still being repaired on the street in front of the Griffith St. garages.

NTF Police Officer Reyes, following up on the complaint about late night basketball, stated that the police were chasing people out of the Park. Unfortunately, these same people appear to return once the police leave the scene. Officer Reyes also informed the group that there is an extra patrol unit on Palisade Avenue to chase undesirables who are hanging out on the corners of Hutton and Griffith Streets.

Mayor Bret Schundler volunteered that the police should impose fines on the people who use the courts after the 10 PM closing time and suggested the posting of signs listing the fines.

There were several complaints about the playing of loud music from residential dwellings on both Ogden and Palisade Avenues. Someone asked for police to patrol Mountain Road because it is being used as a hang-out for illegal activities again - while it is being renovated.

A complaint was also made about the dumping that was occurring on Holland Street because the highway barriers were being pushed aside.

Tony Scarpa, of SDS Bikes, wanted to know if anyone had any complaints about the treatment of customers at Fleet Bank, located on Central Avenue. He was looking for support from the community in order to organize a meeting to discuss any problems with the Bank.

RNA Park Fair and Flea Market: Maria Tuzzo gave a brief report about the success of our annual fund raising event and thanked all the volunteers. A full financial report would be available in July, but preliminary estimate indicated a profit of approximately $1,600.00. The residents who accompanied residents of the Harbor View Health Care Facility to the Park on that day were given certificates and handmade gifts from the residents.

Mayor Bret Schundler, our next guest speaker, spoke about the varied aspects for the **revitalization of Palisade Avenue**. Recent crime in the area has led to the decrease in local property values. One way to combat this problem was to have camera's put up on the public streets to monitor the "hot spots." These cameras would be manned 24 hours and in effect be like having a policeman at that location. The City Council has approved the installation of cameras on Martin Luther King Drive as an experiment. The Mayor indicated that he expects cameras to be installed on Palisade Avenue in about two years.

Another part of this effort would be to involve the community, the schools, the churches and the various government agencies to help steer our children in the right direction - so that they are not hanging out on our corners causing a disturbance or getting involved with drugs or crimes.

Another part of this program would be to get problem buildings under new ownership and to bring them back into the rolls of viable assets.

The Mayor stated that the repaving of Palisade Avenue which is currently scheduled for this fall is an indication of the City's commitment to renovate our area. Someone expressed concern that this new street surface would be undermined when new utility lines are needed during the construction phase of the revitalization program.

RNA also stated that there is a need to stimulate business in our area that can be sustained by our local community: a bakery, restaurant, clothing store, stationary store. The Mayor also stated that part of any business package would include a facade program to renovate existing buildings.

Tony Scarpa, speaking as a representative of the **Palisade Merchant's Association**, stated that the businesses felt like stepchildren because they have never seen any money or effort being spent in our area as compared to Downtown or Greenville. The Mayor assured the group that Palisade Avenue will see an infusion of cash and development to upgrade the area. It took almost seven (7) years to get MLK Drive into construction - so it will take some time for us to see progress.

Schundler also said that some multi-dwellings that are in bad shape should be replaced with new buildings. The new buildings would generate better income and put more people on the streets, which in turn diminish crime. RNA interjected that we want to be able to maintain the integrity of the Palisade Avenue while upgrading it to attract new business and customers. One part of our efforts will be to look into permit and metered parking. RNA told the Mayor that we feel that our neighborhood is the entrance to northern Jersey City from Union City and Hoboken. Therefore it is important to create a good "first impression" on people coming into our community and accordingly the City should commit to finishing our two cliff roads and "clean-up" the negative activity that permeates our neighborhood.

The Mayor stated that the City now has less personnel and it is trying to use them to maximize their potential. An important thing is to get property owners to maintain their own places as much as possible. Also a different distribution of responsibilities in the City agencies will help in getting things done.

RNA also questioned the NID policy of giving so many warnings before issuing a summons for quality of life violations. Another person asked the possibility of getting a police sub-station located on Palisade Avenue.

The Mayor said that what is needed is some new residential buildings to increase the number of local residents - this would increase spending in our local community and which in turn would encourage new business. He said we should be open to the possibility of hi-rise buildings to aid in the revitalization of Palisade Avenue.

The Mayor next discussed local property taxes. The increase of building in Jersey City has increased the tax revenues, but not enough to cover the police and fire budget. The City is dependent on the State for additional aid. He supported recent abatements to waterfront development because it has helped put money into the City Treasury without using our City services to a great extent.

RNA mentioned that while this is great for the City as a whole, the residents in the Heights don't feel that they are benefiting from this progress. The Mayor once again reiterated that the City has made a commitment to invest in our neighborhood.

RNA also expressed concern that while some things do get done for Riverview-Fisk Park - the City has never fulfilled its promise to renovate the eastern, cliff-side portion of the Park. It seems that every year, we are told by the City that the Park is going to be included in the capital improvement budget, but to date, nothing has been done.

RNA asked the Mayor to develop a time table for the plans we had discussed. The Mayor replied that we should see some changes in the next six (6) months.

Another member requested better police presence in the Park for the July 4th celebration. There was another question about possible police lay-offs. The Mayor replied that this question depended on whether the State will provide the requested aid. If the State doesn't give the same amount of aid as in previous years, the City will have to send out lay-off notices to all employees, including the police. As part of this effort, he has been organizing other Jersey mayors to pressure the State to continue providing the same amount of aid to the cities and he plans to meet with the Governor to discuss this subject.

The meeting ended with a statement by one of our members from Palisade Lumber who praised the Mayor for his work so far and asked him not to forget our community. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

July 13, 1999

General Announcements:

1) RNA announced that Marshall Williams the Park attendant for Riverview-Fisk Park had resigned and was setting up interview for another candidate to recommend to the City.

2) There are three new construction projects on Ogden at 346-352, 253 and 235.

3) People were encouraged to attend the special events in the Park: music concerts and Shakespeare plays.

4) Treasurer Beth D'Errico gave the financial report.

NTF Police Officer Chuck Laziere took complaints and concerns from the members that attended the meeting.

Permit Parking: Carmine Venezia, Director of the Parking Authority, was invited to the meeting to discuss the installation of permit parking in our community. He began by announcing the results of a recent survey his department had conducted to determine the percentage of out-of-town motor vehicles that are parked on our local streets. The survey covered Palisade, Ogden and New York Avenues between Paterson Plank Road and Bower Street and was conducted on weekdays between the hours of 11 AM and 1PM. Of the 190 license plates parked on Ogden Avenue, the survey revealed that only 123 were Jersey City residents and surprisingly 43% were non-residents that did not live in Jersey City. There were 36% non-residential vehicles parked on Palisade Avenue and there were 35% non-residential vehicles on New York Avenue. [Mr. Venezia will to do another survey for the same streets between Bower Street and Cuneo Place.]

Based on these numbers, Mr., Venezia recommended that we as a community should strongly consider requesting the implementation of zoned permit parking in our community. He stressed that we could tailor the regulations regarding hours and days of enforcements to our specific community.

He also discussed the installation of parking meters on Palisade Avenue and demarcated parking spaces. Again, he indicated that these improvements would be placed where the community requested them.

After Venezia answered questions from the group, RNA took the first of three votes on the issues of permit parking, meters on Palisade Avenue and demarcated parking spaces. The results of the July straw vote indicated that the group approved permit parking (21 yes-1 no), was evenly divided on meters for Palisade Avenue (10-10) and opposed to demarcated spaces 2 yes-10 no). For more results of this vote and additional information, see the related article on page one of this newsletter.

August 10, 1999

Permit Parking: The August meeting began with a brief update of the permit parking proposal that was discussed and voted on, in July. Before the second straw vote was taken, members expressed the following opinions and concerns:

1) permit parking is really needed during the evening and not during the day; and

2) a parking permit should be good for the entire City - not just a specific zone where the resident either lives or works.

It was also announced that Mr. Venezia recommended that the July vote to allow non-residents to legally park on our streets for four (4) hours should be reduced to two (2) hours to avoid abuse by these individuals.

The second straw vote was taken with the following results:

a) permit parking was approved 31 to 4;

b) parking meters on Palisade Avenue was again tied 17 yes to 16 no; and

c) demarcated parking spaces was defeated 4 yes - 28 no.

It was announced that a final vote would be taken during the September meeting and the results would be submitted to the City with RNA recommendations on these three parking issues.

NFT Police Sgt. Mark Ruby attended our meeting to update us on the recent crime fighting efforts in our community. He admitted that our regular NTF officers Tosado and Schnee were sent to Narcotic training this summer and newer officers were used to replace them. However, he stated that despite that concern, robberies and auto thefts were down 50% and 30 % respectively in our area. Unfortunately there were still to many burglaries - but the Sgt. stated that the precinct was working on ways to address that particular problem.

Afterwards **P.O. Chuck Laziere** was available to discuss any local problems with the membership.

235 Ogden Avenue: The project to convert the existing warehouse into four (4) residential units was discussed. A membership vote was taken to determine RNA's official position. The vote was 26 against and 1 in favor of the project because there was not enough off-street parking. RNA would attend the Board of Adjustment meeting on August 12th to declare its opposition to the project. [More information on this subject is included in the Community Update article in this newsletter.]

Harbor View Holiday Party: Jack Rea announced that Friday, November 19th would be the day for RNA's annual party for the senior residents. [For more information see the preceding article in this newsletter.]

Maria Tuzzo, Secretary

RIVERVIEW-FISK PARK

Marshall Williams, our park attendant in Riverview-Fisk Park regrettably resigned from this position in July. He announced that he had secured a permanent position in a theatre troupe. RNA wishes him the best of luck in his future endeavors. A call was put out for anyone to apply for that position to replace Mr. Williams. In August, local resident Christine Zerrer was interviewed by RNA for this position. Ms. Zerrer has since applied for the job but due to the current financial crisis, The City has imposed a job freeze which has temporarily delayed her being hired.

RNA would like to organize a meeting with the community gardeners to formulate regulations for the use and cultivation of the **Community Garden** next year. There were several unfortunate incidents that all concerned would like to avoid next season by adopting these regulations for the benefit of the gardeners and the community at large. All interested individuals should come to the September meeting to discuss this project.

On August 3rd, RNA sent the a letter to **Kevin Sluka, Director of Public Works** requesting the following improvements and needed repairs for our Park:

a) installation of a water faucet in the community garden (with the recent heat wave and water shortage, the daily use of the adjacent fire hydrant is not very practicable or efficient);

b) installation of a Community Bulletin Board at the Palisade Avenue and Bower Street entrance to the Park adjacent to the bus-stop;

c) installation of the following signs in the children's playground:

1. NO DOGS ALLOWED;
2. NO ADULTS IN PLAYGROUND UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY A CHILD;

d) installation of the sign: CLEAN-UP AFTER YOUR DOG - IT'S THE LAW! throughout the Park (design to be provided by RNA);

e) installation of the sign: NO LOITERING IN THE PARK AFTER 10 PM at the four entrances of the Park located at: Palisade and Griffith, Palisade and Bower, Ogden and Griffith and Ogden and Bower.

For your information, RNA has recommended a local local resident Christine Zerrer for the position of seasonal park attendant. She filled out the application in the Division of Park's office on July 30th. As you are aware, the previous attendant [Marshall Williams] resigned in the beginning of July because he found another full time position. Please expedite this employment application to allow her to start work as soon as possible. [To date, Ms. Zerrer has not been hired because of the current financial crisis in Jersey City.]

Kindly provide the current balance of the our Palisade Avenue treescape Grant, in order for us to plan the best way to utilize these remaining funds in our community. Be advised that several of the planted trees on Palisade Avenue are dead and there are still several without fencing or gratings.

Finally, RNA would like to thank you and Rodney Hadley [the Director of Park's Division] for both your efforts this summer in our Park, especially with the repair and renovation of the wrought iron fence along the eastern cliff retaining wall and the installation of the six 96) foot tubular steel fence surrounding the community garden.

Councilman Bill Gaughan confirmed that money has been allocated in the capital improvement budget for the renovation of the east side of the Park. Please provide details and budget so RNA can begin discussions and getting a consensus for specific projects.

Finally concerning two other projects in our community, please provide the following information:

a) the start date for the paving of Palisade Avenue; and

b) the dedication date for the change of street direction on Ogden Avenue between Bower and South Streets (simultaneous with that change the making of Bower between Ogden and Palisade Avenues - one-way west).

Thank you for your continuing cooperation in maintaining our community.

COMMUNITYUPDATE:

235 Ogden Avenue:

On August 12th, the Board of Adjustment unanimously denied the developers' application to convert the existing warehouse structure into residential units. RNA had previously met with the developers several times and expressed their opposition to the proposed four (4) units, the lack of off-street parking and the stacked parking - all of which are in violation of the R-2 zoning code.

Steven Carr, a member of the Planning and Development Committee, read the official RNA statement into the record opposing the project (based on the August 10th membership vote which overwhelmingly rejected the plan). Residents Doris Brown and Vito Brunetti were represented by their attorney Robert DuVal.

The Board denied the application because of the lack of adequate off-street parking and the inherent problems with stacked parking in a residential environment.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

CHANGES FOR THE PRIMARY CARE CENTER

[The following is a letter written by **Karl Johnson, a vice-president of Christ Hospital** confirming the plans to increase patient load and hours at their facility on Palisade Avenue.]

The Primary Care Center facility operated by Christ Hospital is undergoing substantial changes. The driving forces behind the changes are a dramatic reduction in hospital funding from the federal government, inadequate Charity/Medicaid funding and HMO denial of payment for services rendered. The changes are as follows:

1. Provision of medical services will be by North Hudson Community Action Group, a Federally Qualified Health Center.

2. Christ Hospital will relocate a portion of its Counseling Resource Center (CRC) services to the second floor of the facility.

3. Hours of operation will be expanded to accommodate CRC clients to 9:00 PM Monday through Thursday. Hours for the medical clinic may expand in the future.

4. Staff and patient parking will be provided in the hospital parking lots.

The changes will result in increased volume at the center. The volume projections and visits per hours are as follows:

a. Patient visits will increase from 27,500 visits in the year 2000 to 36,067 visits in the year 2004.

b. In the year 2000 there will be 11.4 patient visits between the hours of 9 AM to 5PM during Monday through Friday.

c. There will be 4.7 patient visits per hour between the hours of 5PM and 9PM during Monday through Wednesday - with 11.4 visits on Thursday evening.

d. The facility will not be open on Friday evening or Saturday.

The volume projections are based on historical data and estimated future growth plans. The actual volume results could vary from these projections based on external and internal factors.

I hope this information is useful. I will keep you posted on any material changes in the future. Please feel free to call me with any questions at (201) 795-8438.

July 14, 1999

NEW DIRECTIONS AT THE PRIMARY CARE CENTER

[The following article was originally published by the **Sgt. Anthony Association** in their monthly newsletter. It is reprinted here in response to the new plans announced by the Hospital in the previous letter.]

On Tuesday evening, June 22nd, members of Sgt, Anthony and RNA met with representatives from Christ Hospital: Barbara Davey and Karl Johnson. It appears that the Primary Care Center (PCC), located across from the Supremo Supermarket is not doing well financially. In fact, the hospital has not been doing well financially. Christ Hospital lost in excess of ten million dollars last year and two million of that was lost on the PCC. Whether it's for reasons of mismanagement style of changed funding by the government, Christ Hospital is not the flush institution it was only several years ago. Instead of buying real estate they are selling it. Naturally this has to change.

The hospital is looking for ways to live within its budget. Layoffs have taken place. Strategic alliances are being sought out. The discussed affiliation with the Jersey City Medical Center has failed to produce results and is no longer in the works. The main subject of the meeting was to discuss increased use of the PCC to raise revenue for Christ Hospital.

Currently, the PCC has been handling 15,000 visits by patients per year. The hospital hopes that this number will double or triple within five (5) years or so. The PCC has two floors. One the first floor there is an adult medical practice. The second floor houses the obstetric and pediatric work. Hospital plans call for the second floor to become a mental health and resource center for outpatient counseling. This seems to be an area of service for which the government is willing to foot the bill. Currently Christ Hospital claims that it is not being paid for about one-third of the services it provides. The mental health counseling will be a fully paid service.

The plans for the first floor of the PCC are to merge the pediatric and other services currently being provided and have the first floor operations managed by North Hudson Community Action Group. Again, the patient care will all be paid. It seems that the North Hudson group has access to grant money which will pay for the health care services provided to the patients.

Some Christ Hospital social workers have expressed concern about going to work one mile to the north of their current place of employment. Their concerns are over crime. Certainly, the [June 5, 1999] shooting that occurred at the corner of Palisade Avenue and Franklin Street did not go unnoticed by these employees. Christ Hospital hopes to provide a great deal of security at the PCC.

The discussed changes will take place this summer. The change for the community will be that the PCC will have longer hours. Instead of closing at six (6) in the evening - it will be open until nine (9) PM. As stated above, the PCC will see about twice the current patient traffic. The PCC truly appears to be underutilized today. Approximately, fifty (50) employees work at the PCC. Perhaps the greatest impact to the community would be increased vehicular traffic and lost parking spaces as patients look for parking. However, this remains to be seen.

The community people present at the meeting will want to hold Christ Hospital to their pledge to not negatively impact our neighborhood. The hospital had originally agreed, several years ago, to hold meetings every three months to monitor the impact of the PCC upon the neighborhood. The hospital should be prepared to curtail its hours or provide some remedy to the neighborhood if any negative developments occur.

Robert DuVal

HELP MAKE PALISADE AVENUE SAFER

[The following is a letter written by **Barbara Davey, Christ Hospital's Director of Public Relations** requesting additional police patrols on Palisade Avenue, in response to their plans.]

Dear Mayor Bret Schundler:

On behalf of Christ Hospital, I want to extend our sincere thanks to you and your staff for your recent efforts to revitalize Jersey City. The Downtown Area, Central Avenue Shopping District, and Journal Square District have each benefitted tremendously from your support.

As director of public relations for Christ Hospital, I need to request that your office take a similar interest in Palisade Avenue - particularly in the area north of Christ Hospital. Later this [year], Christ Hospital will be relocating some members of our behavioral health staff from our Counseling and Resource Center at 179 Palisade Avenue to our Primary Care Center at 324 Palisade Avenue. Most of these employees are women, hold master's degrees in psychology and counseling and generally work from 1 PM to 9 PM.

Needless to say, due to the recent problems in that area of Palisade Avenue, these women are not happy - to say the least - in relocating six blocks north of the hospital. For our part, Christ Hospital will be instituting a shuttle service to transport these employees from our hospital parking lot to 324 Palisade Avenue, which has allayed some of the fear. Any assistance from your office and from the North District would be greatly appreciated - particularly at this time.

I look forward to working together with you on this challenge.

June 23, 1999

DON'T OVERLOOK PALISADE AVENUE

[The following is a letter written by **Greg Brickey**, a local resident that was published in the Jersey Journal on June 17, 1999.]

Recent Jersey Journal articles have favorably described development projects taking place in Jersey City. What is lacking is coverage of the other side of development and city planning, namely encouraging the decay of some areas of the city in order to aid real estate speculation and redevelopment. Palisade Avenue is one such area.

Palisade Avenue has been inexplicably blighted for years. While other sections of the Heights prospered, Palisade Avenue became one of the worst areas of the city.

Over the years the neighborhood has been held together by community groups and activists. The city has almost no role here whatsoever, despite having a municipal building at 325 Palisade.

One of the most dangerous spots is Hutton and Palisade, even though the North District Police Headquarters is only a couple of blocks up Hutton. What's wrong here?

What's wrong here is our New York City skyline view and our vulnerability to block-busting.

During the last city election we were promised a "Palisade Avenue Revitalization." To date, there is no plan for one. However, we do have a new road, that connects us directly to Hoboken. A couple of buildings have been knocked down. The city has bought some property. Crime is worse this season than it has been in several years.

Allowing a neighborhood to fall apart and its residents to be injured is not my idea of good city planning or revitalization. We pay the same high taxes as everyone else and receive almost nothing in return.

It seems that the plan for this neighborhood is "Good roads, great view. Now we just have to get rid of the people."

TRAFFIC PROBLEM AT CENTRAL AVENUE AND CONGRESS STREET

[The following letter by **Tom Hart**, a local resident and former Heights Councilman, was sent to Joe D'Souza of the Division of Traffic Engineering.]

I am writing about a situation which demands immediate address in order to restore pedestrian and vehicular safety at a very busy intersection.

As you are aware, on the main business section of Central Avenue, that portion between Manhattan Avenue and North Street, there is only one true intersection, that of Hutton Street and Central Avenue. Every other is either a "T-intersection" or a "Dog-Leg Intersection." This configuration exacerbates the problems of pedestrian safety, traffic flow and vehicular safety which already exist on this busiest of the City's retail streets, the street which also is the narrowest of the retail avenues.

At least some small address was provided when the traffic signals at Bowers Street were given new timing schedules which allows for a "green light" for both north and south bound traffic on Central Avenue, followed by a "green light" for east bound traffic on Bowers Street, and that is followed by a "green light" for west bound traffic on Bowers Street. Simply stated, the east and west bound traffic on Bowers Street is not permitted to proceed at the same time.

While this is not a holistic answer, it does provide for some semblance of order under most distressful conditions.

Presently, the east and west bound traffic on Congress Street, in fact, is permitted to proceed simultaneously. That creates many and varied problems both for pedestrians and motorists, causing traffic jams and, more importantly, unsafe conditions for pedestrians and drivers. **We respectfully request that your Division initiate action immediately so as to provide the same alternating green light for east and west bound traffic on Congress Street at Central Avenue as exists on Bowers Street.**

We recognize the problems intrinsic to Central Avenue traffic flow and safety, based on the volume of traffic and the convoluted configuration of that street. We anticipate even further problems once the off-street parking areas are completed on Cambridge Avenue and that is based on the fact that egress to those areas must come from streets which are smaller and narrower even

than Central Avenue and the overflow onto Central Avenue will increase. Thus, we are asking that your Division do whatever is necessary to compensate and to provide as safe and smooth a situation as is possible under trying circumstances. We believe strongly that this action at Congress Street will be a small step in the right direction.

As well, more than a year ago I wrote to you concerning problems at the juncture of Jersey Avenue and Observer Highway at the city line of Jersey City and Hoboken. The traffic volume there is unacceptably high and worsens every day. The conditions of the roadways there, added to the presence of the railroad trestles, et al, make this entire area a serious major traffic catastrophe simply waiting to happen.

There now has been erected a service station within that block and that promises to add even further inconvenience and dangers. Thus, the need to address this is even greater than when first I requested your assistance.

Whatever reasons you gave at that time for delaying address of the situation can no longer be accepted because of the seriousness of that situation. **Thus again, I respectfully request your attention to an extremely pressing matter. New and improved signage is required as a very minimal point. What really is necessary is a simultaneous effort between Jersey City's and Hoboken's Traffic Engineering Divisions so as to provide for those constituents whose safety and convenience should and must be paramount to the efforts of those divisions.**

I await your reply to both requests with confidence that you shall address these matter forthwith.

SHAKESPEARE in the PARK

After a rather shaky start, RNA and the Hudson Shakespeare Company were able to schedule two performances of their summer repertory for the community in Riverview-Fisk Park.

On Sunday, July 25th, this very gifted group of men and women performed **Couples of Shakespeare**, excerpts from some of the Immortal Bard's greatest plays. And on the following Sunday, August 1st, they put on a complete production of **Taming of the Shrew**. Both performances were well attended by the local community.

RNA has asked the Company to put together a complete repertory schedule for next year in an attempt to bring cultural entertainment to our community.

SEPTEMBER

For it's a long way from May to September,
September is a beautiful month,
Schools get back for another session,
Leaves start to fall, and
RNA starts planning its Harbor View Holiday Party -
Happy September to all!

Madeline Rea

BIKE RALLY
TO SUPPORT BIKE LANES

SPONORED BY:
BICYCLE ADVOCATES OF JERSEY CITY

WHEN: **Saturday, September 11, 1999**
TIME: **10 AM to 3 PM**
WHERE: **Riverview-Fisk Park:** Palisade Ave./Bower

We assemble at Riverview-Fisk Park and have a police escort down Palisade Avenue to City Hall. Bikes can be rented. Or stay, enjoy the park and cheer everyone on.

Then party at the Hard Grove Cafe right down the block from City Hall.

Call **Tony at 1-888-SDS-BIKE / (201) 656-5472.**

WEAR HELMETS

RECYCLE YOUR GARBAGE AND DISPOSABLES - IT'S THE LAW!

Our neighborhood pick-up day is **WEDNESDAY.**
For more information, call **432-4645.**

"TRUTH IN RENTING"

To obtain a FREE copy of this guide to the rights and responsibilities of residential tenants and landlords, contact Constituent Services at **547-4900.**

CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR NEWSLETTER

Tell us what you think about what you just read in this newsletter. Are you satisfied with the quality of life on your block? Send articles, comments or recipes to 232 Ogden Ave. Next deadline: **Friday, September 24th.**

JOIN RNA

The annual membership dues of **$7.00** enables a local resident to vote on important issues in our community and receive our monthly newsletter. Our boundaries are Ogden and Palisade Avenues from Congress Street to Cuneo Place.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

EDITOR: Vito Brunetti
CONTRIBUTORS: Stephen Carr, Alison Ferrari-Fontana, Kevin Mahony, Patrick Moore, Jack Rea, Madeline Rea, Valerie Rea, Maria Tuzzo
CIRCULATION: Beth D'Errico, Jack Rea, Maria Tuzzo

Bulletin board

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

1) Neighborhood Improvement District: **To leave a message on voice mail, call 547-4974 and**

a) **Ext. 8015 for North-6 Mgr.** (Ogden and Palisade Avenues from Cuneo Place to Griffith St.)

b) **Ext. 8021 for North-7 Mgr. Laura Petersen** (Ogden and Palisade Avenues from Griffith to Congress Streets.) or

c) **Ext. 8052 for Heights Supervisor.**

2) PSEG LIGHTING: To report a non-functioning light in the Park or on any of our streets, call **Pete Magin, PSEG street light manager at 330-6572** and leave a message with exact location of problem.

3) PARKING AUTHORITY: To report a parking complaints call **653-6969**, and press #9. This number is good till 12 midnight. If there is an emergency, Mr. Carmine Venezia PA Director can be reached through his beeper **517-3367**, till midnight during the weekdays and till 5 pm on Saturdays.

From Valerie's Kitchen:

Kale with Garbanzo Beans and Whole Wheat Linguine

(contributed by Mary Mills)

INGREDIENTS:

1 can of Garbanzo beans
Parmesan Cheese
1 bunch of Kale
Whole Wheat Linguine
2-3 Tblsp. of Olive Oil
3-4 cloves of Garlic
Pepper flakes

1) Rinse kale in cold water.
2) Bring water to boil in a large pasta pot and blanch kale leaves for one minute to make them tender. Scoop them out and leave the water to cook the linguine.
3) Remove very tough stems of kale and chop the leaves with a cleaver or sharp knife.
4) Cook the linguine in the salted water to al dente. Drain and then set aside.
5) Heat olive oil in heavy skillet. Smash and chop garlic and brown lightly in the oil. Add shredded kale and drained beans. Lower heat and simmer till tender.
6) Sprinkle the mixture with pepper flakes and cheese to taste. Toss with linguine and serve.

POLICEBEAT

Residents should contact their **Neighborhood Task Force** (NTF) **Police Officers** if they have a problem, a safety concern or knowledge of criminal activity through the North District's Community Service voice mail at **547-5719** or through the front desk at **547-5350**. When leaving a message, include your name, telephone number, street address, the nature of the problem and the date and time of the message. For emergencies, call **547-5477** or **911**.

In addition, anyone with information about illegal drug use and/or drug dealing, should contact the JCPD **Narcotics Unit** at **547-5391** or beeper at **502-9131**. All calls will be strictly confidential.

On the following page, RNA has reprinted a page from the 1999 edition of the Heights Pride Booklet, entitled **Suspicious Activity / Crime Report**. Please use it to write down all information about any illegal activity that you witness in our neighborhood. The information will be helpful when you make the report to the police, in their investigation and if necessary, apprehension of a suspect.

[The **Heights Pride Booklet**, complied by Councilman Bill Gaughan, is a very helpful resource guide to municipal services. Copies can be obtained by calling Tom Dolan, the Councilman's aide at **547-4576** or picking it up at his Heights office at the Municipal Building at 325 Palisade Avenue.]

EAT IT UP ZUCCHINI

INGREDIENTS:

2 pounds of small zucchini (about 6), ends removed
1 tblsp. of minced garlic in oil
1/2 teaspoon of dried thyme leaves

1) Shred the zucchini from top to bottom on the largest teeth of a grater. Do each side, stopping before you get to the seeds in the center Discard the cores of seeds.
2) In a large nonstick skillet, toss the zucchini and the minced garlic in oil over medium-high heat until throughly mixed. Add the thyme and cook just until the zucchini softens, about two minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

UNCOOKED TOMATO "SAUCE"

INGREDIENTS:

3 cups summer-ripened uncooked diced tomatoes
2-3 tblsp. minced onion or shallots
1/2 teaspoon red wine vinegar

1) Toss the tomatoes with the ingredients. Season with salt and pepper.
2) Marinate for 5-10 minutes and then drain well in a sieve.
3) If used in a salad, add as is. If using with pasta, season with herbs and dress with 2-3 tblsp. of olive oil.

HELP US PATROL OUR STREETS!
WE NEED YOU – PLEASE CONTACT US BY PHONE OR MAIL

THE JERSEY CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
NORTH DISTRICT POLICE 282 CENTRAL AVENUE
547-5350 FRONT DESK - 547-5719 NTF OFFICE OR 911

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY/CRIME REPORT

WAS THIS A (CHECK ONE) _____CRIME _____SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY
BRIEFLY DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED:
ALCOHOL DRINKING:_____BURGLARIES_____DISORDERLY GROUPS____NARCOTICS ACTIVITY___NOISE___PROSTITUTION_____
WHEN DID IT HAPPEN? DATE:_____TIME:_____

Where Did it Happen? STREET_____
ADDRESS_____
NEAREST CROSS STREET:_____

SUSPECT DESCRIPTION

__MALE____FEMALE____Age____Height_____Weight_____Race_____
Hair Color_____Mustache, beard_____Glasses____Color of eyes_____
Tatttoos, amputations, scars and/or other distinguishing marks_____
Noticeable accents or special characteristics of speech_____

CLOTHING

Shirt_____Coat_____Trousers_____Shoes_____Tie_____Hat
Rings, Bracelets, Necklaces or Earings:_____

WEAPON

Handgun_____Rifle_____Knife_____Club_____Other_____

DESCRIPTION OF VEHICLE

Make_____Year_____Body Style_____Color_____
License Number_____State____(If unable to identify state, color of license):____
Identifying dents, scratches, wheels, markings

ALL INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL

Name_____

Address_____Phone No._____

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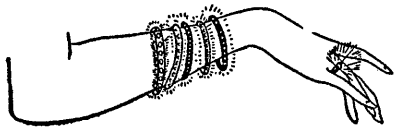

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ACE

PLACE YOUR
AD HERE

(IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ADVERTSING IN THE RNA NEWSLETTER, PLEASE MAIL YOUR BUSINESS CARD AND A CHECK [EITHER $10/ONE MONTH OR $60/NINE MONTHS] TO RNA, 232 OGDEN AVENUE, JERSEY CITY, N.J. 07307).

Discuss the Revitalization of Palisade Avenue
at the Next RNA Meeting on Tuesday,
SEPTEMBER 14th AT 7:00PM

Join RNA!
neighborhood?
to improve your
you did sometime
When was the last time
Hey You!

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RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RNA

Vito Brunetti
Chairperson

Kevin Mahony
Vice-chairperson

Maria Tuzzo
Secretary

Beth D'Errico
Treasurer

Len Davis
Sgt. at Arms

COMING EVENTS

RNA MEETING: Tuesday, September 14th at 7:00 PM
LOCATION: THE HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER

- GUEST SPEAKER: ROBERT COTTER, DIRECTOR OF CITY PLANNING to Discuss the Revitalization of Palisade Avenue
- FINAL VOTE ON LOCAL PARKING REGULATIONS:
  a) Permit Parking for the Residential Blocks
  b) Metered Parking for Palisade Avenue
  (Open to the General Public)
- OPEN DISCUSSION OF FUTURE PLANS & FALL PROJECTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY